Matching funds form States

3370. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects have been held up due to non-receipt of matching funds from States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially in respect of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The funds to various cost sharing projects agreed with State Governments are being provided by the State Governments from time to time. The delay in release of funds affects the progress of project. No such ongoing project is held up on this account in Tamil Nadu.

Vacancies under North-East Frontier Railway

3371. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies under North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) jurisdiction as on lst November, 2009, category-wise;

(b) whether Government is going to fill up these vacant posts of NF Railway in near future;

(c) if so, the details of programme contemplated in this regard; and

(d) whether official language of the State would be considered as medium of test/interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of vacancies on Northeast Frontier Railway as on 31.03. 09, is 82 for Group (A+B) and 8875 for Group (C+D).

(b) and (c) Filling of vacant posts is a continuous process and the policy of the railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

(d) As per revised instructions, the question papers for recruitment examination would be set in Hindi, Urdu, English and the local language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India falling within the jurisdiction of that Railway Recruitment Board (RRB). As regards interviews, for whichever posts it is prescribed, the medium is Hindi and English only.

Modernization of railway stations

3372. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans of her Ministry to modernize Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar railway stations before Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether Government proposes to provide additional facilities at these stations; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to introduce fast trains during Commonwealth Games and if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Amritsar and Jallandhar City Railway Stations are "A-I" category stations and Ludhiana, Jallandhar Cantt and Chandigarh Railway Stations are "A" category stations. Minimum essential passenger amenities as per norms have already been provided at these stations. Work of modernization of Amritsar, Jallandhar City and Ludhiana stations has been completed recently, and work of modernization of Jallandhar Cantt and Chandigarh is planned for completion by March 2010.

Amritsar and Chandigarh stations have also been identified for development as World Class station.

(c) There is no proposal at present to introduce fast trains during the Commonwealth Games. However, Railways will make all efforts to clear the extra rush of passenger traffic during the Commonwealth Games keeping in view the operational feasibility, commercial justification and availability of resources.

Inconvenient additional berth in coaches

3373. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains in which inconvenient additional berth on the side in sleeper/III AC has been introduced; and

(b) by when these are proposed to be discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The policy of provision of additional (side middle) berths in Sleeper Class and AC 3 Tier coaches was reviewed by the Ministry of Railways. All such berths provided in the modified coaches have been removed.

Rules relating to demurrage charges

3374. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules relating to demurrage charges fixed for Central Railways in Sholapur division;

(b) whether the charges are different in case of goods like fertilizers, wheat, grains or other agricultural products in relation to consumption of rakes per day; and

(c) if not, whether Railways is planning to devise a flexible policy with respect to farmers or agricultural products for demurrage charges fixed by Railways in Central Railway division at Sholapur?